GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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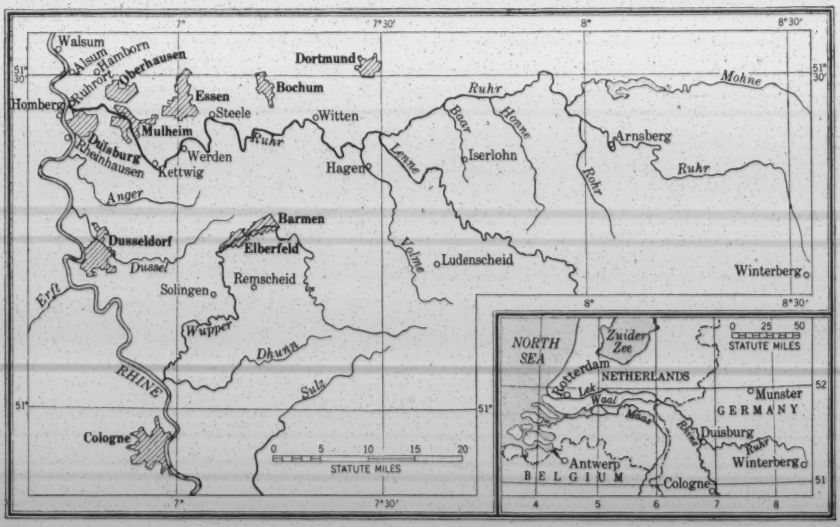

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A SKETCH MAP OF THE RUHR BASIN (see Bulletin No. 5).

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Guadalajara: Second Only to Mexico City

THE MEXICAN train which was recently captured by bandits who killed more than a score of passengers, men, women and children, was running between Mexico City and Guadalajara, the largest and next-to-largest cities of our neighbor nation. The survivors of the attack found their way back to Guadalajara, which is 300 miles west and a trifle north of Mexico City.

Although Mexico's second city has seen its share of bloodshed and revolution, it is a pleasant place as well as a community of wealth and power. There is something of a Parisian touch about it. One senses a light gaiety in spite of the scars from a decade of shooting and looting. A palm-filled plaza adds a semitropic note which quite prepares the visitor to learn that the gaiety has a more somnolent note than that which the Champs Elysees or the Rue de la Paix have to offer. The banners of lottery tickets through which one must usually peer to see the twin domes of the yellowish brown cathedral, speak eloquently of Latin tolerance in the realm of chance.

There is architecture in Guadalajara and evidence of wealth that may be wholly a thing of the past or may be slumbering below the surface, so to speak, awaiting the more settled times that wealth demands, whether in the tropics or near the poles. Whole streets of handsome private residences speak of a more prosperous day. The stocks of some shops are sadly shorn by years of strife, but the buildings that house them are well built and ornamental. The hotels are clean and comfortable.

An Old-time Custom of the Plaza

This second city of Mexico has always been famed for its beautiful women; and it still deserves its reputation, though many of the wealthier families whose daughters led the social world, have taken up their residence in the United States and Europe since President Diaz fell. In the "good old days" the ladies of the better world used to promenade in the plaza of an evening when the band played, the gentlemen marching in a reverse direction, while the peons stood deferentially outside admiring the beauty and magnificence. But this parade of the first families is a thing of the past. Now the peons have the plaza to themselves and march and countermarch with their own women.

But basic customs die hard, and the visitor today is not denied a view of Guadalajara's beauties. Early each Sunday afternoon for an hour they drive up and down the narrow main street between the cathedral and a little church a quarter of a mile distant, smiling and greeting their friends of the "carriage class." Many of these first families of Guadalajara are of unmixed Spanish blood, and their outlook on life, despite revolutions and the democratization of their government, is strictly aristocratic.

A Murillo Masterpiece in Hiding

In the city is a painting by Murillo for which $400,000 was once offered. But the visiting art lover will look for it in vain. Great works of art are not safe when revolution stalks, and the authorities of the cathedral, in which the magnificent painting hung, saw to it that their priceless charge went into hiding, awaiting the return of a happier day in Mexico. The picture was the gift of the King of Spain

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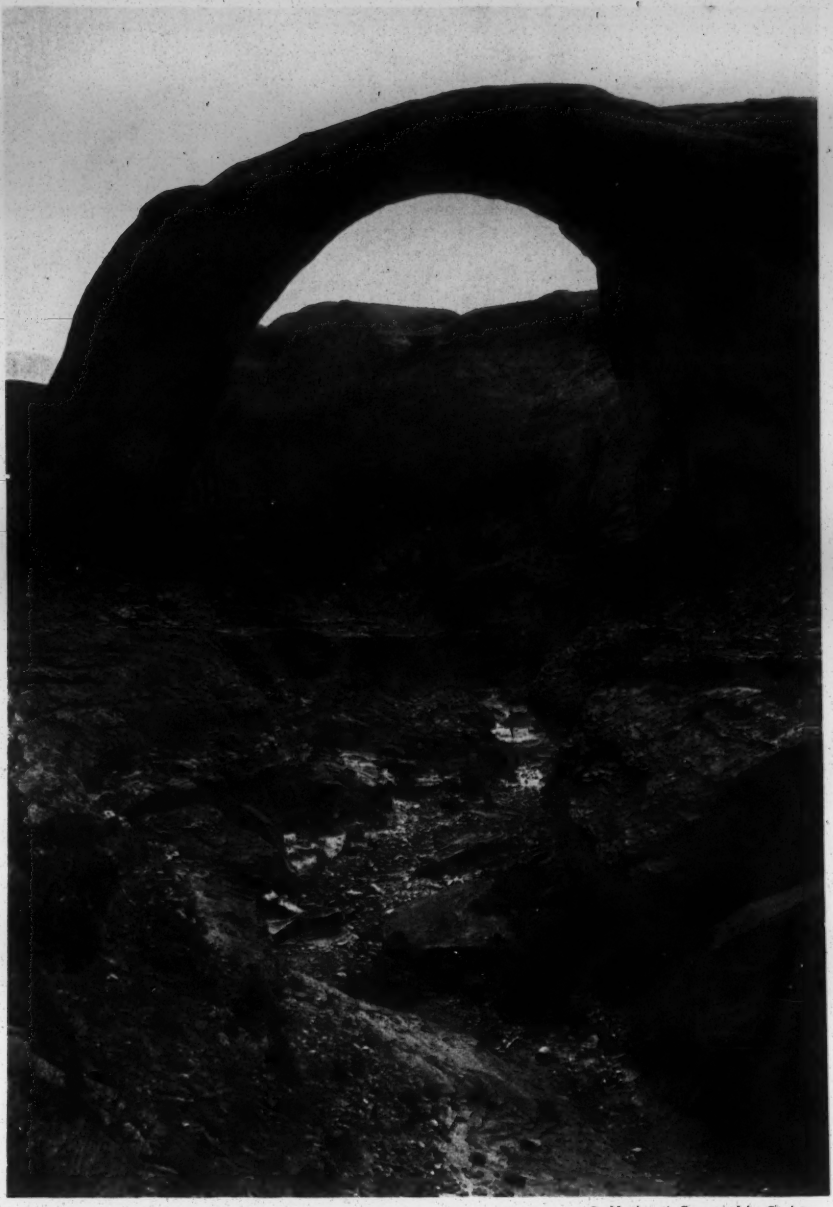

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LOOKING THROUGH THE ARCH OF THE LARGEST NATURAL BRIDGE IN THE WORLD

Rainbow Bridge, one of the many natural bridges in southeast Utah, is 308 feet in height and has a span of 275 feet. The size of it may be gauged by the figure of a man on the white spot near the center of the illustration. The photograph for this illustration was taken by the National Geographic Society's expedition which reconnoitered for prehistoric Indian dwellings in this district (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Tibet: Where the Reigning Buddhas Are at Outs

THE TWO "Living Buddhas" of Tibet, which spreads itself over the high mountainous plateau bordered on the south by the lofty Himalayas, are at outs, according to reports from the Province of Szechwan, China.

In normal times the Dalai Lama at Lhasa, the capital, takes charge of the matters of state and the Pantshen Lama at Shigatse reigns as supreme religious authority. But the Dalai Lama has robbed the Pantshen Lama of his privileges so that dignitary fled to China where he awaits a chance to return.

Tibet with its scores of thousands of Buddhist monks and its degenerate religion in which devils hold an important place, may be said to be at once the most priest-ridden and devil-ridden country in the world. The complete story of Tibet is yet to be written, for foreigners have been jealously excluded, and only within relatively recent years have outsiders been so much as permitted to make a fleeting visit to Lhasa, the capital of this isolate country. So difficult has it been to enter Lhasa that it has gained around the world the title of "the Forbidden City."

One-seventh Are Priests

But though much of Tibet is unknown, civilization has set a few outposts in the eastern edge of the country close to the Chinese border and so has come to know "provincial Tibet" fairly well. This eastern region, like most of Tibet in fact, is a country of deep valleys, though their floors are very high above sea level, bleak uplands, and tall peaks. All Tibetans might almost be classed in four groups; the primitive agriculturalists of the valleys, the nomads of the hills, the monks of the countless monasteries which are perched on crags and mountain slopes, and the relatively few merchants and traders. The monks are by no means a small factor in the population. Tibet, in its way, is one of the most religious lands known; and its particular type of Buddhism has run heavily to monasticism. It is estimated that one-seventh of the population are priests or monks, called "lamas." Their lamasaries or monasteries often make cities in themselves, housing thousands of the members under neighboring roofs. Many of the Tibetan communities marked on the maps are each primarily a monastery on some great crag with a village of ordinary folk at the foot of the slope.

The Buddhism of Tibet is far from that which Gautama, prophet of Buddhism, taught. The religion of the people before the coming of Buddhism was devil-worship, and instead of wholly replacing that low form, the new teaching was grafted on it. To a greater extent even than in China, the people are superstitious and believe in the daily interference of devils in their affairs. Even a minor accident like the spraining of an ankle is laid to "a stroke on the foot by a devil."

The large lama class in Tibet has acquired much money and land. They are constantly adding to their normal incomes from contributions by the lending of money to the common people for interest, by renting them land, and in time of sickness and death by fees for prayers and "medicines."

Resemble American Indians More Than Chinese

The layman from the Western World finds little resemblance between the Tibetans and the Chinese. They might be more closely compared in features and characteristics to the American Indians; but their color and certain features indicate, nonetheless, that they are sprung from the original Mongol people.

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as a recognition of contributions from Guadalajara during the Peninsula War of 1808–13 when England, Portugal and Spain fought Napoleon's forces in the Iberian Peninsula.

Guadalajara's climate is all that could be wished. Perhaps it is even more; for each day with its clear blue sky and flood of sunshine is like the one that went before and the one that will follow tomorrow. Winter has no sting. It has little to distinguish it save that some nights have a touch of frost to lend an added sparkle to the air.

Bulletin No. 1, February 15, 1926.

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"PLAYING THE BEAR" IN GUADALAJARA

The approved method of courting in Guadalajara is to lean against the heavy bars of the balcony for hours telling sweet things to the girl within. There is said to be a distressing tendency toward modernity in this city, and those who live in apartment houses which shelter the prettiest girls have been known to throw buckets of water on the "bears."

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The Unfreezing Murman Coast

THE EFFECT of the warm Gulf Stream on both North America and Europe is a fact of geography taught in every classroom. A striking object lesson for this familiar geographical problem is reflected in the recent news despatch from Leningrad (formerly Petrograd) warning steamships from attempting to enter the Gulf of Finland. Thirty steamers have been caught there in the ice.

Yet 700 miles north of the Gulf of Finland on the Murman coast in the same latitude as Disko Bay, Greenland, is an open roadstead where vessels may load and unload at will in ice-free harbors. Lack of good communication with the interior now prevents the use of these ports to any considerable extent. The Gulf

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A ZIRINIAN AND HIS FLEET-FOOTED FOUR-IN-HAND ON THE MURMAN COAST

During the nineteenth century a few Zirinians (also called Syrenians), a nomadic people residing on the west side of the Urals, migrated to Lapland in an effort to outrun a disease which was destroying their herds of reindeer. The animals which they brought with them were of a splendid stock. The Zirinians are skillful in handicraft and are excellent hunters.

of Finland is approximately the same latitude as Seward, Alaska, and the southern tip of Greenland. The long arm of the Gulf Stream, stretched across the Atlantic, around the northern tip of Europe, and along the coast beyond, makes the Arctic waters which bathe the northern end of Norway and the nearby strip of Russia more truly Atlantic waters.

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Many of the people of the outlying regions of Tibet are nomads who tend their flocks of sheep and yaks as they graze over the uplands, and live in black, yak-hair tents. Others engage in a crude type of agriculture in the valleys where the altitude is low enough for grain to mature. The farmers live in strong houses of mud with flat roofs. In constructing the mud houses the Tibetans use forms of parallel boards not unlike the forms used in the United States for molding walls of concrete.

The living quarters in the homes of the valley folk usually consist of a single large room, in which all work, including the cooking is done, and where the members of the family eat and sleep. The comforts in such homes are meager indeed. In the ordinary houses "going to bed" means merely loosening the girdle, opening the sheepskin garment, and curling up on the floor with the feet toward the stove, which is an essential feature of all habitations in this high, cold country.

The Yak Sleeps in the Parlor

Families possessing domestic animals share their houses with them. In two-storied houses the lower floor is the stable, and through it the living quarters are reached. In some one-storied houses the front portion is given up to the animals, while the family lives in the rear.

The food of the Tibetans is most monotonous to an American or European, accustomed to variety in his diet. They live almost the year round on two things, barley meal, called "tsamba," and "butter tea," neither of which seems at first view either appetizing or sustaining.

Tsamba is made by parching barley and then grinding it into a very fine flour. It becomes a sort of emergency ration, for, being parched, it requires no cooking.

In preparing the other principal article of their diet the Tibetans first make a strong liquid by boiling the coarse Chinese tea which they prize most highly. The drink is strained into a churn and to it are added a lump of butter, more or less stale, and a handful of salt. The queer mixture is then churned into an emulsion.

Flavor Their Tea with Butter

The typical meal among the valley folk of Tibet, and among many of the nomads as well, begins with the drinking of two or three cups of butter tea. As the Tibetan drinks his hot butter tea, he continually blows back from the rim of his bowl the film of butter that rises to the top. After several bowls of the beverage have been drunk, there is a considerable amount of butter on top. The bowl is then half filled with the tea emulsion. Into the hot liquid, rich in butter fat, tsamba is now poured, to be kneaded by the fingers into lumps and eaten.

Polyandry is far more common, especially among the nomads, than one is likely to believe at first. Under this system a woman usually marries three or four brothers, but cases have been known in which a woman had six brothers for husbands.

Divide Duties Among Family

Under the ordinary arrangement, one husband will take care of the home in the valley, if there is one; another will be in charge of the yaks or sheep in the uplands; a third will be the trader, taking care of the caravan, while others will be assigned special duties.

The oldest brother is considered the father and the other brothers the uncles of the family. In such families the children usually are not numerous, an average family of children being three to five.

If a family has no sons, but has daughters, one of them usually is kept in the home, and a husband is brought in for her and carries on the family succession. The remaining daughters are normally given to other families.

Bulletin No. 2, February 15, 1926.

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Southeast Utah, a Land of Free Land

THE TOTAL area of "vacant and unappropriated" land in the United States, according to the most recent figures announced by the Department of Interior, is 184,716,846 acres. This is equal in area to our largest state, Texas, and West Virginia combined.

Utah, which is placed second to Nevada on the list of states with the largest areas of "vacant and unappropriated" land, has 28,583,000 acres to which no one has taken title. Indeed, some of Utah's acres are not only unreserved but also practically unexplored.

San Juan County occupies the southeast corner of Utah spreading itself over an area larger than the State of New Jersey. It is so wild that a miniature Indian war broke loose there two years ago. A few hundred white men at the most really know the remote sections of this country even superficially.

Bounded by Canyon Moats

This is a part of the United States which can perhaps be understood by outsiders only if they have gazed off over the depths and crags of the Grand Canyon and tried to imagine what lies beyond. San Juan County does not lie immediately north of the canyon; it is in a broad way a kindred land to that moated region —set off from the beaten path, largely a land of rock and canyons and desolation.

The district is marked out by its own canyons. To the west lies the north-and-south gorge of the Colorado river, not yet the tremendous gash that it becomes farther south and west in Arizona, but still a huge cleft in the earth that can be crossed only at a few widely separated points. To the south lies the canyon of the San Juan River, minor beside the Grand Canyon, but a deep, difficult chasm for all that. To the north the Grand River, important tributary of the Colorado, runs in a deep channel, making the third canyon boundary to this isolated county. The west line of the State of Colorado marks the fourth boundary.

Great Tracts Without Settlements

The northern portion of San Juan County is in reasonably easy reach of a railroad, and there in the central portion are two of the three principal towns of this vast division. Neither has a population of 1,000. Not far from the southeastern corner of the county and the state, a hundred miles from a railroad, is Blanding, around which a Ute uprising took place two years ago.

The country south and west of there is a great expanse of red rock, carved into innumerable canyons, buttes and fantastic promontories. Where there is soil, cedars and sagebrush grow. In some of the valleys there is grass and water, but much of the country is a rocky wilderness in which there is little animal life. Districts hundreds of square miles in extent are wholly without settlements, and some of the canyons are believed never to have been explored by white men.

Ute and Navajo Indians ranged over this country in the early days, but even they found much of the region inhospitable and had their permanent headquarters in more favored valley regions east and south and west.

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A Magnet for the Fishing Fleets

Foreign fishermen make the most of this region of iceless waters, where in the proper season, schools of cod, herring and salmon abound. Chiefly, the fishing vessels are those of British and Norwegians.

The Russian fishermen of the Murman coast are a nomadic lot who live along the coast in the spring and summer and desert the country in winter.

The Murman coast was practically unknown to the outside world until the blockade of the Baltic and Black Seas during the World War made necessary dependence on the unused doorway in the north. An army of 100,000 laborers was set to work pushing a railroad from what was then Petrograd to the port of Murmansk, where in an inlet 30 miles from the open sea, in a wide, deep harbor free from both currents and ice, the largest ocean freighters could dock. In spite of the greatest engineering difficulties through a country of bogs by summer and ice by winter, the line was completed, but only a little while before the Russian revolution came to make it useless.

American Soldiers Served on This Coast

Several thousand American "doughboys" were sent to the Murman coast with British, French and Italian contingents, to hold the railroads of the region, and spent long months in the cheerless region. When the war-time population left, the country slipped back, and now except for the railroad villages it is almost as sparsely settled as before. A few Lapps live scattered over the Kola Peninsula whose northern edge forms the Murman coast, subsisting largely on their reindeer. As in many Arctic regions, mosquitoes are a serious pest along the Murman coast in summer, and even the reindeer flee to the interior highlands to get away from them.

Bulletin No. 3, February 15, 1926.

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FISHING BOATS IN A QUIET HARBOR ON THE MURMAN COAST

Murmansk, Russia's only ice-free port in the north, is situated on the eastern shore of the Kola Inlet, 30 miles south of the Arctic coast. The inlet is a mile and a half wide at this point and there is a depth of 32 feet at the piers, while it is 70 feet deep a few hundred yards from shore. The inlet has no currents and large ships may be shifted from one side of the pier to the other without the aid of tugs. There is an eleven-foot tide.

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Ruhr Cities of Germany's "Pittsburgh District"

DISPATCHES carry an announcement of the merger of seven large coal and steel companies of the Ruhr region on the Rhine. This will mean a still closer linking of the life of the cities in the Ruhr Basin.

At the confluence of the Ruhr and the Rhine is Ruhrort, though only one-twelfth the size of our own Pittsburgh, comparable in economic importance to that municipal child of the Ohio and Allegheny rivers. Indeed, the entire region may be likened to western Pennsylvania.

Between the Rhine and the Ruhr is Duisburg, city of rolling mills, foundries and factories. Once this beehive of industry was a university town, and a grimy memorial fountain to Gerardus Mercator, latinized form of Garhard Kremer, is a reminder that the inventor of the famous map projection method was associated with Cassander who, nearly four centuries ago, was commissioned to found the University of Duisburg. Kremer was not a German but a Flemish geographer who studied at Louvain. Duisburg is connected with the Ruhr by a canal.

But the real center of industrial power which drove the earlier culture of university life out of the Ruhr Basin is Essen. Essen, too, experienced a transformation, for it originally was the site of a Benedictine convent. For three centuries preceding its incorporation into Prussia, Essen was governed by the Abbess, who became ex officio, a princess.

Krupp Works Small for Years

Though the Krupp works were founded in 1812, the year 1848 saw them with only 70 employes. But with the advent of railways and cast steel guns the Krupp works expanded rapidly.

Mulheim is a railway center, seven miles northwest of Essen, where convergence of rail and water routes brought an enormous traffic. Four miles east of Essen is another Ruhr river port, Steele, a mining town with iron and steel works, also noted for its fireproof bricks.

Farther up the Ruhr is Witten, important not only for steel but also for beer, soap and chemicals. On the Rhine, a scant five miles south of the Ruhr's mouth is Dusseldorf. This is one of the most pretentious cities in western Germany. It was bombarded by the French in 1795, later was the capital of Berg when that state was a Napoleonic duchy, and passed to Prussia, with the rest of Berg, in 1815.

The Ruhr basin coal fields not only are important to Germany because of their heavy production, but because they alone were accessible for water importation of ores. A canal connected Dortmund, a city of the Ruhr basin with the Ems River, thus affording an outlet directly to the North Sea at Emden.

The Ruhr Spins as Well as Smelts

A by-product of this development of water transportation to care for the coal mining and the attendant iron and steel industry, was the growth of textile manufactures. In cotton spinning the Ruhr basin holds first place in Germany.

The Ruhr was made navigable from the Rhine to Witten, some forty-three miles, by means of locks. Even then low water frequently hampers navigation.

Bulletin No. 5, February 15, 1926.

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Natural Bridges Are Wonders of the World

In San Juan County are the most famous of the natural bridges of Utah which have been made into National Monuments, and which deserve to be classed among the natural wonders of the world. The isolation of this portion of Utah is emphasized strongly by the fact that the first inkling of the existence of these great bridges did not reach white men until 1895, and the first of them was visited by whites at late as 1903.

Because of the extreme difficulty of reaching the bridges, relatively few people have viewed them even yet.

Bulletin No. 4, February 15, 1926.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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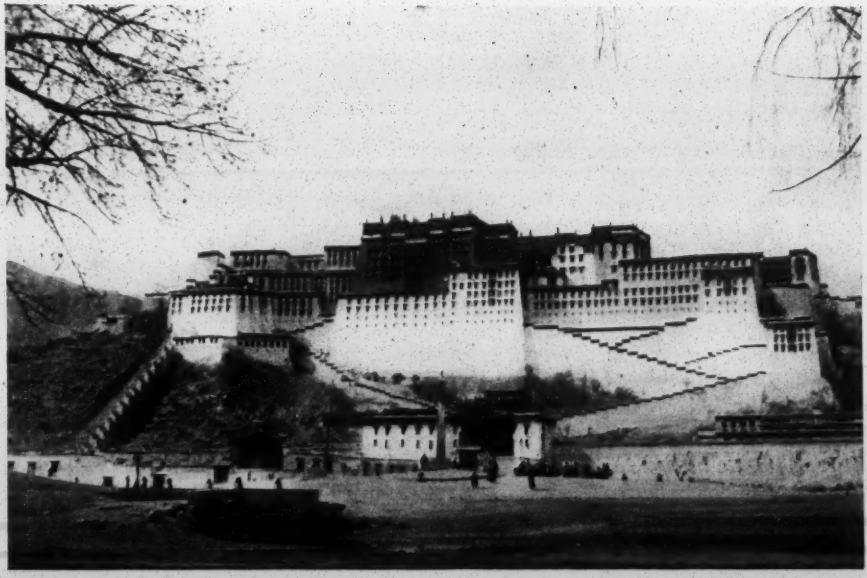

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THE PALACE OF THE DALAI LAMA AT LHASA

Here lives the ruler of Tibet. He is also a high official in the Buddhist church of the country but in normal times the Dalai Lama attends to the governmenal duties, leaving to the Pantshen or Tashi Lama at Shigatse the supreme control of the state religion. Although Shigatse is less than one hundred miles east of Lhasa it is considered an eight-day journey, so difficult are the trails in this mountainous region (see Bulletin No. 2).